

Congressman Pence [joined](#) other Congressional leaders at a hearing held by the [Republicans on the House Education and Labor Committee](#) entitled: "A Culture of Favoritism: The Obama Administration's Labor Agenda." This hearing sought to examine a range of labor policies and initiatives proposed by the Obama Administration and Congressional Democrats, including the so-called "Employee Free Choice Act" (Card Check), union-only project labor agreements, the weakening of union financial disclosure requirements, and the like. Witnesses included President Bush's former Secretary of Labor, Elaine Chao, and businessman Steve Forbes.



Congressman Pence delivering remarks during the hearing

Below is the Congressman Pence's statement as prepared for this hearing:

Thank you, Mr. Kline, for holding this hearing and for the invitation to speak with you all today. I want to thank you, and the rest of the Republican members on the House Education and Labor Committee, for your tireless efforts on behalf of students and workers across the country.

Congress has a responsibility to ensure a level playing field between workers and their employers, and the duty of congressional oversight is an important tool in doing so. When Congress abandons that responsibility, it does a disservice to our nation's employers, but perhaps more importantly, it serves an injustice to American workers.

During a time when the national unemployment rate stands at a heart-breaking 10 percent, we must do everything in our power to promote public policies that will create jobs and unleash the entrepreneurial spirit of the American people.

Sadly, over the last year Democrat leaders and this administration have unveiled one legislative proposal after another that will kill jobs and lead to further economic decline. The American public is well aware of their proposals to pass a national energy tax and a government takeover of health care.

What the American people may know less about is their big labor agenda. Let me start off by saying that I firmly believe unions play an important role in the lives of many Americans. More than 300,000 Hoosiers in my home state are union members.

But as the people's elected leaders, we have a responsibility to do no harm to the economy. And driving much of the Democrats' big-labor agenda is simply a desire by national labor organizations to increase union rolls and the flow of union dues.

The administration has advanced numerous proposals that tilt the bargaining table in favor of big labor leaders and against American workers, such as proposals to overhaul the National Labor Relations Board, as well as reducing the level of transparency in financial disclosures of labor organizations.

And while the American people have been shut out of the health care debate, big labor held secret negotiations with the president and worked out a deal that gives special protections to union workers at the expense of American taxpayers.

Perhaps the most infamous item on big labor's agenda is the so-called "Employee Free

Choice Act," or card-check legislation. The results of this misguided policy are workplaces with fewer freedoms, a weaker economy, and a vastly empowered federal government. This is simply a bad deal for American businesses and their employees.

You know that a legislative proposal is bad public policy when a conservative, like me, agrees with George McGovern, a former presidential candidate for the Democrat party. Last year, Mr. McGovern penned an article that detailed the dangerous flaws of card-check legislation.

As a former hotel owner, Mr. McGovern described the "alarm" he would have felt if an outside entity took control of the intimate details of his business. No doubt countless business owners, who have poured their sweat and savings into the future of their enterprise, feel the same way.

Rather than encouraging businesses to create jobs and create incentives for workers to invest in the success of their companies, this flawed proposal will foster workplace hostility and burden businesses with even more bureaucratic red tape.

Never before have we had this level of federal involvement in the workplace. It appears that for some in Washington, there is no government takeover too scary to contemplate.

American taxpayers have already sacrificed billions of dollars to prop up failing businesses and watched as the President of the United States dismissed the chief executive of a private company. The frustration we have witnessed across the country is not simply directed at health care reform - the American people are fed up with a culture of borrowing, bailouts and takeovers that has consumed Washington.

Small businesses and family farms are struggling to keep their doors open, and American workers fear that their job will be the latest casualty of this tough economy. Washington should not compound their fears by promoting bad public policy.

I hope that we can chart a course for this year that puts the American people first, by

pursuing policies that will get our economy moving again and that will put people back to work.

Thank you again, Mr. Kline, for today's hearing and your leadership on this important issue.

Pictures from the hearing are available [HERE](#) .